Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 079640
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 /023 R

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AID/ASIA/IK:RELLERT-BECK
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----------090045Z 003917 /14-R
P R 082259Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 079640

FOR AMBASSADOR SELDON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, EAID, PFOR

SUBJECT: AMBASSADORS SEMI-ANNUAL TRIP AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

REFS: A) STATE 073563; B) WELLINGTON 1132

1. FOLLOWING IS BRIEF STATUS REPORT ON OUR SOUTH PACIFIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AS PROMISED REFTEL:

2. FORUM LINE SHIP:

WE HAVE INFORMED SAMOANS OF NAME OF COMPETENT MARINE SURVEYOR TO EXAMINE VESSEL IN US AND SUGGESTED THEY CONTACT HIM DIRECTLY. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW IF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 079640

SAMOANS HAVE PROCEEDED IN THIS REGARD. (FYI: WE HAVE NOT FOLLOWED UP WITH SURVEYOR HIMSELF BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IT IS IN BEST INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED THAT WE NOT BE INVOLVED IN THIS ASPECT OF THE UNDERTAKING. THIS APPROACH WILL GUARANTEE THE OBJECTIVE, INDEPENDENT APPRAISAL THE SAMOANS WANT.

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3. PL-480

(A) TITLE I:

THE QUANTITIES REQUESTED BY THE SAMOANS ARE UNUSUALLY SMALL (86 TONS FOR THE FIRST YEAR, AS CORN IS THE ONLY REQUESTED COMMODITY AVAILABLE UNDER PL-480) AND WE ARE NOT AT ALL CERTAIN WE COULD GET THE INTERAGENCY APPROVAL NECESSARY. HOWEVER, BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER WE WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT TO THE SAMOANS THAT TRANSPORTATION CHARGES (DOLLARS 6450) FROM THE UNITED STATES WHICH THE RECEPIENT MUST PAY WILL BE EXCESSIVELY HIGH IN RELATION TO THE COST OF THE GRAIN (DOLLARS 9,300). THE DOLLARS 6450 FIGURE REPRESENTS A DIRECT SHIPMENT TO SAMOA FROM THE US WEST COAST; TRANSSHIPMENT VIA NEW ZEALAND COULD RUN AS HIGH AS DOLLARS 24,000. GIVEN THESE COSTS WE WONDER IF IT WOULD BE MORE ECONOMICAL FOR THE SAMOANS TO BUY THE GRAIN IN, SAY, NEW ZEALAND AT COMMERCIAL RATES BUT WITH LOWER FREIGHT COSTS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE SAMOAN VIEWS ON THIS.

(B) TITLE II:

WE ARE WORKING ON A POSSIBLE PROGRAM IN WHICH TITLE II MIGHT BE USED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF A SAMOAN FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAM. DETAILS ARE NOT YET FIRM, NOR IS THE NECESSARY INTERAGENCY APPROVAL ASSURED.

4. ASSISTANCE THROUGH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES:
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THE REPORT, TOGETHER WITH PROJECT PROPOSALS, OF THE STATE/AID SURVEY TEAM HAS BEEN CIRCULATED TO NINE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HERE IN THE UNITED STATES AND WE ARE AWAITING THEIR REACTIONS. THE ASIA FOUNDATION, AS AN OUTGROWTH OF THE STATE/AID TEAM'S MEETING WITH THEM, HAS ALREADY DISPATCHED THEIR PROGRAM OFFICER ON A VISIT TO THE AREA. THE FOUNDATION WILL BE REQUESTING FUNDING FOR A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS IN THE EDUCATION/TRAINING FIELD.

5. AID TO THE USP'S ALAFUA COLLEGE, WESTERN SAMOA:

WE ARE EXPLORING PLANS TO ASSIST THIS REGIONAL INSTITUTION THROUGH A DIRECT LINK TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII. WE ARE WORKING TO FUND A VISIT BY A SURVEY TEAM FROM HONOLULU TO DETERMINE PRECISE NEEDS AND PREPARE PROJECT DOCUMENTS.

6. SKIP-JACK TUNA:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

WE ARE FINALIZING APPROVAL OF OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THIS SPC BASED SURVEY THAT SHOULD BE OF REAL ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.

7. UNDAT FUNDING:

WE HAVE HAD CONFLICTING INFORMATION FROM THE UN AND THE FIELD ON THE STATUS OF THIS ISSUE AND ARE NOW TRYING TO DETERMINE THE FACTS TO SEE IF INTERIM ASSISTANCE FOR FY 77 IS APPROPRIATE AND POSSIBLE.

8. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS SEMINAR:

WE HAVE SENT INVITATIONS BUT HAD NO REPLIES. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASKING THE FIJIANS, TONGANS AND WESTERN SAMOANS TO INFORM US IF THEY PLAN TO ATTEND.
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9. EXCESS PROPERTY FOR AVIATION MECHANICS TRAINING SCHOOL:

IF YOU CAN, MENTION TO IULAI TOMA THAT THE AGREEMENT HE SIGNED IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO OBTAIN EXCESS EQUIPMENT. WE NEED TO KNOW THE EXACT TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS AND QUANTITIES OF EACH ITEM IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN AVAILABILITY FROM EXCESS STOCKS, AS EXPLAINED IN THE AGREEMENT AND AID'S LETTER OF MARCH 3, 1977.

10. PAGO PAGO SLIPWAY:

DURING STATE/AID VISIT, WESTERN SAMOANS ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF MARINE SLIPWAY IN PAGO PAGO. PLEASE TELL SAMOANS INTERIOR INFORMS US THERE ARE NO PLANS TO CLOSE THE SLIPWAY AT PRESENT.

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Executive Order: N/A
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